

# *Iowa Fishing Report*

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The Iowa Department of Natural Resources issues a weekly fishing report on Thursdays in an effort to provide the latest information heading into the weekend. The weekly fishing report is compiled from information gathered from local bait shops, angler creel surveys, and county and state parks staff. For current information, contact the district fisheries office at the phone number listed at the end of each district report.

## **SOUTHWEST**

### **Lake Icaria**

The lake level is normal, the water temperature is in the upper 50's and the water clarity is good. Angling activity is increasing.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	A few channel catfish are starting to be caught from the shoreline areas beside the jetties during the evenings.
Crappie	Fair	A few anglers are finding crappie just off shore.

### **Fogle Lake S.W.A.**

Water temperatures are near 60. Clarity is good. The bite is picking up fast.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Some nice crappie are being caught out from the dam and down about 8 feet during the evenings.

### **Lake of Three Fires**

Water temperatures are about 60. Water clarity is 3 feet at the dam.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	A few crappie are being caught from the deeper shoreline areas of the jetties and the dam.

### **Green Valley Lake**

The lake level is down 9 feet for a sediment removal project. The main concrete ramp is operational and accessible. The lake has a lot of nice sized fish of all species. The water temperature is in the upper 50's. Water clarity is good.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	A few channel catfish are biting near shore on crawlers or stink baits.

### **Three Mile Lake**

The water temperature is in the middle 50's. Water clarity is good.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	A few crappie can be caught just off shore from the steep shoreline areas. Size ranges from 8 to 11 inches.
Walleye	Slow	A few walleye are biting from the old roadway between the middle ramps. The mounds and the base of the dam still hold a few fish.

### **Twelve Mile Creek Lake**

The water temperature is in the upper 50's. Water clarity is very good. Most fish species are starting to bite.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bullhead	Fair	Giant bullheads are biting from above the silt dike at the upper end of the lake. Crawlers on the bottom are the most effective.
Crappie	Fair	The crappie are still out a little just off-shore of the steep shoreline areas or the dam
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Several mid-sized bass are being caught from 5 feet of water just off-shore from the steep rocky shoreline areas.
Walleye	Slow	The walleye have moved out to the mounds and creek channel edges.

### **Mt. Ayr District Farm Ponds**

Several ponds are producing good panfish and largemouth angling. Water temperatures can be above 60.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Good	Anglers are finding several crappies near shore.

**Water temperatures are warming back up. Small lakes and farm ponds are near 60 with the larger lakes in the middle 50's. the bite has picked up most everywhere. Water clarity is still good at most lakes.**

### **Greenfield Lake**

Greenfield has one concrete boat ramp and is trolling motor only. Lake is full.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Crappies have picked up along the dam using small jigs. Sorting is necessary for larger fish.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Largemouth bass are being caught using jigs in the cedar tree piles and along the dam.

### **Nodaway Lake**

Nodaway has 1 concrete boat ramp. Crappie bite has improved. Fish the dam and rocky shoreling on south side of lake.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Catfish are being caught in the upper end of the lake using dead minnows.
Crappie	Fair	Crappies up to 8 inches are being caught on the dam casting small jigs.

### Lake Anita

The crappie bite has improved. Fish the north arm around the pontoons and around the jetties.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Good	Crappies up to 10 inches are being caught on jigs under a bobber.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Largemouth bass are being caught along the road beds and in brush piles.

### Willow Lake

Willow lake has one concrete boat ramp and excellent water clarity. Bluegill and crappie have been fairly steady around the bridge and jetties. Fish close to structure and as deep as possible using worms or small casting jigs.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Bluegills are being caught using worms around jetties. Fish are up to 8 inches.
Crappie	Fair	Crappies up to 9 inches are being caught along the dam and around jetties.

### Viking Lake

Viking Lake fish populations are coming back following the 2006 renovation. The lake has 3 concrete boat ramps and good water quality.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Channel catfish are being caught using dead minnows. Fish average 2-3 pounds.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Largemouth bass up to 18 inches are being caught around cedar tree piles using plastic baits.

### Lake Manawa

Crappies fishing on the west side of the lake is good. The canals have been producing the most fish. Catfish are biting on dead minnows.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Channel catfish are being caught on the windy shorelines using dead minnows.
Crappie	Good	Crappies up to 12 inches are being caught on jigs and minnows in the canals and around docks.

### Cold Springs District Farm Ponds

Farm ponds typically warm quickly and can provide good early season fishing. Larger ponds with crappie populations are good now as crappies are close to shore preparing to spawn. Remember to always get permission to fish private farm ponds.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Slow	Bluegill fishing has been slow with the cool water temperatures. Try fishing deep structure with small jigs and a slow retrieve.
Crappie	Fair	Cast small jigs alone dam for best success.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Largemouth are being caught next to shore on sunny days casting small spinner baits using a slow retrieve.

**Fishing has improved with warmer weather. Water temperatures are in the upper 50's on most water bodys. Farm ponds temperatures are above 60 degrees. For more information on fishing call the S.W. District Office at (712) 769-2587.**

### Rock Creek Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Rock Creek water temp is in the mid 50's. Crappie have not moved shallow yet, but some anglers are having fair success drifting minnows or panfish jigs in 8 foot of water. Look for crappie to start moving shallow over the weekend.

### Roberts Creek Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	The crappie spawn at Roberts Creek is just around the corner. A few fish are starting to be caught shallow on minnows. The crappie population in Roberts Creek is strong right now and should provide some excellent fishing this spring.

### Big Creek Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Slow	With water temps staying around 55 degrees the crappie have not moved shallow yet for the spawn. Temps near 80 predicted for over the weekend will help. Only a few crappie are being caught over deeper brush piles.
Walleye	Fair	Walleye are being caught on jigs, soft swim baits, crank baits, and minnows. The fish are being caught in the east ramp bay, the dam, and any jetties on the south half of the lake. Most fish being caught are sublegal, but fish over 15 inches are coming in.

### Lake Ahquabi

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Anglers fishing the brush piles near the fishing shelter are doing well on bluegills and also picking up a few crappie. Boat anglers targeting the dam area and Northwest shore are having similar success.

### Des Moines River (Stratford to Saylorville Lake)

Fish Name	Status	Comments
White Bass	Good	Anglers continue to catch good numbers of white bass and an occasional wiper below the Saylorville Reservoir. The backwater ponds below Saylorville are producing a variety species including white bass, crappie, and Northern Pike.

**Warmer weather is finally arriving for the weekend. This should warm most central Iowa lakes enough to start the crappie spawn. Water temps are currently in the low to mid 50's, but should reach the 60's over the weekend. Farm ponds are already a little warmer and providing some good crappie and bluegill fishing. For information on central Iowa lakes and rivers contact Ben Dodd or Andy Otting at 515-432-2823.**

## **SOUTHEAST**

### **Red Haw Lake**

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Use small jigs fished along shoreline structure and around submerged structure in 6-10 feet of water. These fish will continue to move shallower at the water temperature rises.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Use rubber worms along the shoreline structure.

### **Hawthorn Lake (aka Barnes City Lake)**

The lake had been drained for a lake renovation but work is now complete. New fish habitat areas have been built along with some new jetties. The gate has been closed and the lake is now starting to fill. As of May 4th, the lake is approximately 1/3 full. The boat ramps are still not usable.

### **Lake Miami**

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Slow	Anglers have been having some success in the evenings using cutbait or dead chubs.
Largemouth Bass	Slow	Try using jig n' pig combos or spinnerbaits in 2-8 feet of water around submerged structure.

### **Lake Sugema**

The water temperature is in the low 50's.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Some nice bass are being caught. Use a jig n' pig combo or try slow rolling spinnerbaits. Fish areas with submerged structure.

### **Ottumwa Lagoon**

Trout were stocked on Saturday, March 19th. Try using spinners, worms, or other trout bait.

### **Rathbun Reservoir**

The lake level is at 905.81 with 904.0 being normal pool. Water temperatures have been running in the low to mid 50's. Fishing has been slow with the cool water temperatures. Warmer water temperatures will help improve fishing. Crappie anglers should try deeper water areas first and then move shallower as the water temperatures rise. Anglers are reminded that walleyes have been tagged in Lake Rathbun and if tagged fish are caught please report the tag to the hatchery at 641-647-2406.

**For further fishing reports in south central Iowa please call the Rathbun fish hatchery at 641-647-2406**

### **Iowa Lake**

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	
Crappie	Slow	

### **Kent Park Lake**

Some bass and bluegills are being caught in the ponds, but the lake has been pretty slow yet.

### **Lake Macbride**

Any sized motor may be used at no wake speed at this time. Water temps are in the low 50's right now.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Fish in the 9-12" range are common. Fish around submerged brush/trees with a slip bobber/minnow or jig. The upper ends of the lake have been the warmest and most productive.
Walleye	Fair	Some fish have been caught jigging over structure, and some fish have been caught trolling crankbaits. Most fish are in the 14-18" range.



### **Diamond Lake**

Remember, minnows are not allowed here.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Fish around brush piles. Use a small jig or small worm under a bobber.
Crappie	Good	Size has been a bit small (8") but numbers are good. During the warm weather, fish have been caught right along the shoreline on small tube jigs.

### **Otter Creek Lake**

Fishing has been poor here lately.

### **Union Grove Lake**

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Fish around wood and brush with a small worm or jig.
Crappie	Fair	Fish around brush and rock. On warmer days, fish shallower water. Use a small jig or minnow.

### **Coralville Reservoir**

The current lake level as of May 5 is 690'. Current predictions show the lake falling approximately half a foot per day.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Anglers are still catching catfish on cut bait and some on nightcrawlers. The upper end of the lake has still been best. Anglers have also been trying in the feeder creeks and where creeks enter the lake.

**Iowa River (Coralville Lake to River Junction)**

Current flows coming out of Coralville Reservoir are 6000 CFS and are predicted to remain at this flow until May 10, at which the flows will be stairstepped down each day.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Slow	The bite has slowed a bit due to water temperature and changes in water flow.
Walleye	Fair	Jigs and crankbaits have been producing a few fish.
White Bass	Fair	Try jigs or small crankbaits.

**Wapsi River (Troy Mills to Oxford Junction)**

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Fair	

**Maquoketa (Hopkinton to Canton)**

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Fair	

For more information, contact the Lake Macbride Fisheries Station at 319-624-3615.

**Lake Geode**

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Anglers have been catching some nice largemouth bass along the weedlines during the warmer afternoons.

### Lake Belva Deer

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	A few anglers are picking up crappies along the old creek channel in 8 to 10 feet of water using tube jigs tipped with minnows.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Target the bass in the shallow water during the warmer afternoons, the mornings are just too cold for them to be very active. Use crankbaits worked slow.

### Lake of the Hills

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Slow	Catfish are starting to bite on chicken liver and anglers are also having limited success using stinkbaits. Concentrate your efforts on the warmer afternoons.
Rainbow Trout	Good	Look for where there is flow from the other lakes into the lake. They are still hitting on a variety of baits.

### Wilson Lake

Still plenty of trout to be caught. Remember you need a trout fee to fish for them.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Largemouth Bass	Good	A lot of small bass are being caught while people are fishing for trout.
Rainbow Trout	Excellent	Trout are being caught on small jigs, flies, and a variety of small spinners. A worm on a hook 2 to 3 feet below a bobber is also working.

### Skunk River (Coppock to Mississippi River)

The river is finally starting to go down slowly. Still about 3/4 bankfull. Very little fishing going on.

### Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The Iowa at Wapello is just below flood stage. It's forecasted to start dropping slowly during the next few days.

### **Big Hollow Lake**

This new lake down in Des Moines county is starting to get some attention from the anglers. Go to the Des Moines County Conservation Board Website for more details about its location and a contour map of the lake.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	The bluegills are being found around the jetties and shallow timber. Worm and bobber seem to be working the best.
Channel Catfish	Fair	Average size is running between 10-14". Nightcrawlers fishing around the creek channel and gully bottoms are where I would start.
Largemouth Bass	Excellent	While these fish are running just below the legal length they are lots of them and they're hungry. Spend your fishing efforts during the sunny afternoons in the shallow bays and terraces around the islands where the water will be a little warmer.

### **Lake Odessa**

The ramps at Odessa remain underwater. The flood waters don't seem to have done any significant damage to the levee just washed away some of the sand off the levee. The Toolesboro road is remains closed but the water is no longer going over the spillway. AS the river level goes down so will the level in Odessa.

**For more information on the above rivers and lakes call the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at (319) 694-2430.**

## **MISSISSIPPI RIVER**

### Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 18 is 13.13 feet and falling. Floodstage is 10 feet.  
Fishing has been slow due to the high water conditions.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	No Report	
Channel Catfish	No Report	
Crappie	No Report	
Walleye	No Report	
White Bass	No Report	

### Mississippi River Pool 18

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 17 is 17.47 feet and falling. Floodstage is 15 feet.  
Fishing has been slow due to the high water conditions.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	No Report	
Channel Catfish	No Report	
Crappie	No Report	
Walleye	No Report	
White Bass	No Report	

### Mississippi River Pool 17

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 16 is 15.95 feet and falling. Floodstage is 15 feet.  
Fishing has been slow due to the high water conditions.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	No Report	
Channel Catfish	No Report	
Crappie	No Report	
Walleye	No Report	
White Bass	No Report	

### Mississippi River Pool 16

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 15 is 15.98 feet and falling. Floodstage is 15 feet. Fishing has been slow due to the high water conditions.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	No Report	
Channel Catfish	No Report	
Crappie	No Report	
Walleye	No Report	
White Bass	No Report	

**Pools 16-19: River stage is still above flood stage throughout the pools. Boat ramps are under water throughout the pools. Fishing has been slow due to the high water conditions. Most fishing reports are coming from area lakes and ponds. Main channel water temperature is around 52 degrees. For more fishing information on Pools 16-19 contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.**



### Mississippi River Pool 14

River stage at Camanche is 17.1 feet and is forecast to start dropping next Monday and be at 16 feet on Wednesday. Flood stage is 17 feet. Water clarity is fair and water temperatures are in the low 50's. Most ramps in Pool 14 are still closed due to high water.

### Mississippi River Pool 13

River stage at Bellevue is 15.4 feet and is forecast to start dropping over the weekend and be at 14.1 feet on Wednesday. Water clarity is fair and water temperatures are in the low 50's. The ramps at Mill Creek Park and Pleasant Creek are currently underwater.

### Mississippi River Pool 12

River stage at Dubuque is 17.03 feet and is forecast to start dropping over the weekend and be at 14.7 feet on Wednesday. Flood stage is 17 feet. Water clarity is fair and water temperatures are in the low 50's. The ramp at Massey Marina Park is currently underwater but should be usable by sometime next week.

**For fishing information in Pool 12-15 of the Mississippi River contact the Bellevue Fish Management and Research Station at 563-872-4976**

### Mississippi River Pool 11

River level at Guttenberg is 14.5 and expected to fall to near 12.5 over the course of the next week. Guttenberg city ramp is still closed but the DNR ramp is open but parking is limited so those putting in may have to park on side streets.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Slow	A few crappie being reported along flooded timber in the upper part of the pool.
Largemouth Bass	Good	Bass are hitting pretty well in the upper part of the pool along shorelines.
Sauger	Fair	Sauger still biting in the tailwaters.
Smallmouth Bass	Fair	Fish exposed rock shoreline with current
Walleye	Slow	A few walleye still being caught in the tailwaters.

### Mississippi River Pool 10

River level at Lynxville is 23.0 and expected to fall to near 21.5 over the course of the next week. Boat ramps at Harpers Ferry and Bussey Lake are open but Sny Magill is still closed.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	A few bluegills hitting in Bussey lake.
Largemouth Bass	Good	A lot of bass hitting in the upper part of the pool below the dam and near Harpers Ferry.
Smallmouth Bass	Good	Fish along exposed rock shoreline with current.

### Mississippi River Pool 9

River level at Lansing is 12.8 and expected to fall to near 11.5 over the course of the next week. Village Creek ramp is open but Army Road Ramp at New Albin is still closed.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Largemouth Bass	Good	Bass are hitting well but finding good shrelines to fish may take some work.
Smallmouth Bass	Good	Fish along exposed rock shorlines with current.

**River levels on the Upper Mississippi have are just below flood stage in most areas and expected to fall slowly over the next week. Some boat ramps are beginning to open up but many others are still flooded or closed for clean up. Boaters should be cautious of floating debris and be conscious of their boat wake and potential damage to shorelines and private property. Water temp is 48 degrees.**

**NORTHEAST**

### **George Wyth Lake**

Fishing has been slow for crappie but with the warming forecast fish should be moving into the shallow water bay areas.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Slow	Try fishing with a crappie minnow under a bobber or casting colored tube jigs.

### **Cedar River (Nashua to La Porte City)**

Current conditions on the Cedar River have water levels dropping. Anglers have been doing well on northern pike on both the Cedar River and Shell Rock Rivers. With the recent warm temperatures fishing should pick up for channel catfish, walleye and smallmouth bass.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Good	Dead cutbaits or minnows fished on the bottom in slack water areas has been productive on channel catfish.
Smallmouth Bass	Fair	Jigs tipped with a twister & nightcrawler slowly retrieved off of the bottom works well.
Walleye	Fair	Jig and a twister tail tipped with a minnow or nightcrawler is productive.

### **Shell Rock River (Greene to Shell Rock)**

The Shell Rock River continues to drop and there have been good reports of northern pike being caught. With the recent warm temperatures fishing should pick up for channel catfish, walleye and smallmouth bass.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Northern Pike	Good	Cutbaits have been the bait of choice.

### **Wapsi River (Tripoli to Troy Mills)**

The Wapsi River is dropping in Buchanan County and the river stage is currently at 7.7 feet. With the recent warm temperatures fishing should pick up for channel catfish, walleye and smallmouth bass.

### **Maquoketa River (above Monticello)**

There have been reports of walleye being caught on the Maquoketa River. With the recent warm temperatures fishing should pick up for channel catfish and smallmouth bass also.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Good	Jig & twister tipped with a minnow or crawler has been productive.

### **Manchester District Streams**

Trout streams are clear once again and should be good by the weekend. Call the Manchester District Office for the most recent conditions @ 563-927-3276.

**The interior rivers are in good condition once again and have been providing angling opportunities for a variety of different species. Lakes have been slow to come around this spring with all of the cold weather. Trout streams in the Manchester District are running clear and should be good for the upcoming weekend. For further information contact the Manchester District Office @ 563-927-3276.**

### **Volga Lake**

Recent weather has slowed some angling activity.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Slow	

### **Lake Hendricks**

A few anglers have been out but not much action is happening.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Slow	
Crappie	Slow	Anglers are using waxworms with some luck.
Largemouth Bass	Good	Best luck on bass is using artificial lures.

### **Lake Meyer**

Water temperatures are still cool and fish activity is slow.

**Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)**

Water levels around Decorah have dropped nicely and are about normal for this time of year. Water clarity is excellent and temperatures are still cold. Fish activity is slow.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Sucker	Slow	Anglers should try using a slip bobber and a hook tipped with a worm.
Walleye	Slow	Anglers have been catching walleye using a jig tipped with a long piece of nightcrawler retrieved slowly.

**Upper Iowa River (below Decorah)**

Water levels have dropped nicely. Water is clear but cool.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Northern Pike	No Report	
Smallmouth Bass	No Report	
Sucker	Slow	
Walleye	No Report	
Yellow Perch	No Report	

**Wapsi River (state line to Tripoli)**

We have received no information regarding fishing on this water body this week.

### **Cedar River (above Nashua)**

Water levels have gradually gone down this week and water clarity is good. Water temperatures remain cool but should warm with better weather this week.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Slow	Best success for bait for cats in the Cedar now is using a dead chub or frog fished off the bottom.
Northern Pike	Slow	Anglers have been catching pike while fishing for catfish.
Walleye	No Report	

### **Decorah District Streams**

Northeast Iowa trout streams are fishing well. Blue Wing Olive hatches remain very good, and caddis hatches are picking up as the weather warms. Trout have been taken on #14 and #16 Deer or Elk Hair caddis patterns fished alone or with small nymph or wet fly droppers. A #16 Adams also remain productive. For stocking information, please call 563-927-5736 or visit our website.

**Area lakes continue to slowly warm and action is slow. River water levels have been steadily dropping this week and are clear. Water temperatures on the rivers are running about 45 degrees. Trout streams are in excellent condition. For more information, please contact the Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.**

## **NORTHWEST**

### **Lake Pahoja**

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Anglers are reporting catches of bluegill fishing with a bobber and small piece of worm.
Crappie	Good	Anglers are starting to catch crappies in shallow water.

### Big Spirit Lake

With the warmer temperatures, expect good catches of walleye on opening weekend!

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Try fishing in protected areas on sunny days by docks
Bullhead	Fair	Some fish are starting to be caught along the north grade.
Crappie	Good	Crappie fishing has picked up on warmer days in protected shallow areas on the lake.
Smallmouth Bass	Fair	Some fish were reported last week. Try fishing along rocky shorelines and points.

### East Okoboji Lake

East Okoboji should be another lake that will have excellent catches of walleye this weekend. Try fishing rocky shorelines with a jig and minnow.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
White Bass	Good	Anglers are catching white bass on the north side of the lake, the highway 9 bridge, and along the west shoreline near highway 71.
Yellow Bass	Good	Some yellow bass are being reported while fishing rocky shorelines for white bass. On sunny calm days the bite can be excellent.

### Silver Lake (Dickinson)

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bullhead	Good	Anglers are reporting catches of bullhead at inlet areas of the lake.
Yellow Perch	Good	Try fishing along sandy shorelines in the early morning and at sunset. This lake has many yellow perch up to 12".

### **West Okoboji Lake**

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Try fishing along docks in shallow bays with a small jig and piece of worm or wax worm.

### **Little Sioux River (state line to Linn Grove)**

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Good	Try using a jig and minnow with slow presentation.

**Fishing has picked up with the warmer weather, however windy days are making it difficult to fish many area lakes. Saturday morning, May 7th, at 12:01 am walleye season officially opens on Big Spirit, East Okoboji, and West Okoboji.**

### **Clear Lake**

Walleye are being caught from the east shore in the evening using minnows or plastics on a jig. Boat anglers have had some success fishing Billy's reef and the artificial reefs using a variety of baits. Yellow bass fishing remains slow yet, a few have been caught by the baptist camp and in the little lake. With the increase in temperatures yellow bass fishing should start to pick up. Anglers are also catching some crappie and bluegill in the shallows on jigs.

### **Crystal Lake**

A few anglers have reported catching panfish from shore using crawlers.

### **Black Pit**

A few crappie and bluegill have been caught near shore using crawlers and minnows on a small jig.

### **Bluebill Lake**

Anglers are still catching a few panfish from shore with live bait.

**For more fishing information contact the Clear Lake Fish and Wildlife station at 641-357-3517.**

### **Nelson Park Lake**

8 to 10 inch bluegill were being caught out of Nelson Park earlier in the week.



### **Crawford Creek Impoundment**

Anglers fishing Crawford earlier in the week had little luck.

### **Bacon Creek Lake**

Anglers are still catching quite a few trout at Bacon Creek. Remember that you need to have a trout stamp in addition to your regular fishing license to fish for or possess trout.

### **Storm Lake (incl Little Storm Lake)**

Anglers are allowed three walleye per day, all fish between 17 and 22 inches must be released, only one of the three fish can be over 22 inches. Boaters should use caution on Storm Lake. The hydraulic dredge is in operation in the east basin of the lake. There is a pipeline running from the dredge to the shoreline and may rise to the surface at times.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Fair	The walleye bite on Storm Lake continues to be slow but has improved over this past week. Larger fish including those in the slot are beginning to bite. Success has been slightly better from shore but the high winds have made navigation difficult.

### **Swan Lake**

A few small bluegills are being caught around the fish house.

### **Black Hawk Lake**

Water temperature is in the mid 50s.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Good numbers of channel catfish can be still caught on real windy days. Target the points on the north shore of the lake where there are strong currents moving around the point.
Walleye	Slow	The majority of the walleye being caught right now are sub-legal fish.

### **Southwood Conservation Area Pond (west)**

Anglers caught a lot of crappie last weekend at the Southwood Ponds. Crappie were running anywhere from 8 to 14 inches, with most of them being caught on small minnows. Some catfish were being caught as well.

### **Arrowhead Lake**

Nice sized bluegill have been biting in the north end of Arrowhead. Some anglers have been targeting the south end of Arrowhead.

**Little Sioux River (Linn Grove to Correctionville)**

A few walleye and northern pike have been caught below the Linn Grove Dam.

**North Racoon River (Auburn to Perry)**

Some channel catfish are being caught out of the river.

**Water temperatures have started to warm a little. Panfish are beginning to bite at some of the smaller ponds. For more information on lakes and rivers in this area contact Ben Wallace or Don Herrig at the Black Hawk District Office in Lake View at 712-657-2638.**